GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:385
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001
IMMIGRATION LAW TO CHECK INFILTRATION OF TERRORISTS
AKHILESH SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the immigration laws to check infiltration of terrorists;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the amendments made/proposed to be made in these Laws to this effect?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 385 FOR 18.12.2001.

(a): Admission, stay, movement and exit of foreigners is governed by the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920; Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939; and Foreigners Act, 1946 and rules made under these Acts. The review of these Laws is a continuous process. As and when need arises, necessary amendments are made. Various provisions of these Acts/Rules provide for checking illegal infiltration by any category of foreigners. There are no separate immigration laws to check infiltration of terrorists.

(b) & (c): In its ongoing efforts to control and check infiltration of illegal foreigners, the Government has already amended the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 to substantially enhance its penal provisions. The Government also introduced a Bill in Rajya Sabha in 1998 proposing to enhance the existing penalty of imprisonment for the violation of the Foreigners Act. 1946 from a maximum of five years to eight years. A number of non-legislative measures have been taken to check illegal infiltration of terrorists which include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of out post towers and provision of surveillance equipment etc.